

Message Text

SECRET

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41
ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SAL-01

USIE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 INRE-00 L-03 /085 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/LA:PAN:RBHOWARD:MJT

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 212569

E.O. 116521

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: PRESS STORY OF ALLEGED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN PLOT AGAINST GOP

REFTEL: STATE 209779

1. DEPARTMENT CONTACTED PANAMANIAN EMBASSY OFFICER ROGELIO NOVEY, AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 26 REGARDING POSSIBLE PUBLICATION OF STORY IN WASHINGTON POST TENDING TO COLLABORATE JUNE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE ABOUT ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST TORRIJOS INVOLVING HUNT AND ASSOCIATES. AFTER LISTENING TO DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S COMMENTS PER REFTEL, NOVEY STATED THAT HE BELIEVES THAT REPORTER INTENDS TO PUBLISH DIFFERENT STORY UNRELATED TO NEWSWEEK ARTICLE. ACCORDING TO NOVEY, HE WAS RECENTLY CALLED BY REPORTER, TIM INGRAM WHO STATED THAT HE WAS PREPARING ARTICLE FOR A SUNDAY OUTLOOK SECTION OF POST. HIS ARTICLE WOULD ALLEGGE CIA SUPPORT OF ABORTIVE COUP PLOT AGAINST GEN. TORRIJOS WHICH WAS LED BY FORMER NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER AMADO SANJUR.

2. NOVEY SAID THAT REFERENCE TO PANAMA IS PART OF LARGER ARTICLE WHICH INGRAM IS WRITING ABOUT QUOTE UNCONTROLLED

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END QUOTE CIA ACTIVITIES. NOVEY TOLD DEPT OFFICER HE

INFORMED INGRAM THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE ALLEGATION OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN SANJUR COUP PLOT. NOVEY ALSO SAID THAT HE UNDERSTANDS

THAT NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER, SEYMOUR HERSC HAS SIMILAR STORY ABOUT ALLEGED CIA SUPPORT FOR SANJUR COUP WHICH HE INTENDS TO PUBLISH EVENTUALLY IN A BOOK ABOUT CIA.

3. NOVEY SAID THAT INGRAM ASKED HIM WHETHER HE KNEW OF PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF EXILED PLOTTER SANJUR, ANDNOVEY REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT. NOVEY TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICER, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS INFORMATION THAT SANJUR IS ALIVE AND WAS NOT KILLED IN COLOMBIA AS REPORTED RECENTLY BY PRESS. NOVEY REITERATED TO DEPARTMENT OFFICER THAT HE DID NOT KNOW OF SANJUR'S PRESENT WHEREABOUTS BUT HAS INFORMATION THAT THE MAN KILLED IN COLOMBIA WAS NOT PANAMANIAN PLOTTER AMADO SANJUR BUT ANOTHER MAN WITH THE SAME NAME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ASSASSINATION, PLOTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE212569
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PAN:RBHOWARD:MJT
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS BOWDLER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973107/aaaaaeul.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: EL: STATE 209779
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS STORY OF ALLEGED U.S. INVOLVMENT IN PLOT AGAINST GOP
TAGS: PFOR, PN
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005